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DE RUEHAS #0942 2401117
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 271117Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6297
INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 0004
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0678
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0354
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0012
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0001
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0001
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 9027
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0176
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 1706
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2851
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 2487
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 0014
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0004
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 7343
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 6492
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0003
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 000942

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/RUS KSZPILA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/25/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [RS](#) [GG](#) [AG](#)

SUBJECT: ALGERIA UNLIKELY TO FOLLOW RUSSIA ON SOUTH OSSETIA
AND ABKHAZIA

REF: A. STATE 90978

[1](#)B. STATE 91894

Classified By: DCM Thomas F. Daughton; reasons 1.4 (b, d).

(C) During an August 26 meeting with MFA Director for Eastern European Affairs Fatah Mahrez, we delivered reftel demarches and reinforced U.S. concerns regarding Russian recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent countries. Fatah said that Algeria would need time to develop an official position; however, he reiterated Algeria's non-aligned position on the right of self-determination within the framework of international law and the UN process. Mahrez predicted Algeria's position on Abkhazia and South Ossetia would likely be similar to its position on Kosovo, i.e., opposition to recognition. He said the question of recognition was a legal matter that should be resolved in the UN. Mahrez added that Algeria preferred a negotiated solution to the conflict between Georgia and Russia, and regretted the escalation of the past weeks. Mahrez agreed to contact us regarding further developments in Algeria's position.
PEARCE